

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A1

5 1. An integral disposable absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso, said garment comprising:

10 a) a suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates, said suspension sling having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end, said suspension sling being suspendable in a wearer's crotch region; and

15 b) a waist belt having a first belt end secured to the suspension sling proximal end and a second belt end;

20 wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region.

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25 2. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said suspension sling comprises:

a) a liquid permeable topsheet;

b) a liquid impermeable backsheet associated with said topsheet; and

5 c) an absorbent structure positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet.

10 3. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 2 wherein the suspension sling further comprises an elastic element.

15 4. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 3 wherein the elastic element is disposed in at least one suspension sling side margin.

5. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said waist belt is elastically contractible.

20 6. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a belt attachment system.

25 7. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 6 wherein the belt attachment system is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

8. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 6 wherein the belt attachment system is a mechanical fastener.

5 9. The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 6, wherein said suspension sling distal end further comprises suspension sling fasteners.

10 10. A method of applying an absorbent undergarment about a human lower torso having a waist and a crotch comprising the steps of:

15 a) encircling the waist of the torso with a waist belt comprising a first belt end secured to a proximal end of a suspension sling and a second belt end;

20 b) releasably attaching the second belt end to the first belt end;

25 c) drawing the suspension sling through the crotch of the torso, the suspension sling further comprising means for absorbing and containing body exudates, longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, and a suspension sling distal end;
and

d) releasably attaching the suspension sling distal end to the belt at a point between the second belt end and the first belt end.

5 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising orienting the second belt end and suspension sling toward the anterior of the torso while releasably attaching to the first belt end thereto.

10 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising rotating the encircling belt about the waist to locate the suspension sling at posterior portions of the torso, generally in the area of the buttocks, prior to drawing the distal end through the crotch toward anterior
15 portions of the torso.

Sub A 13. An absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso, said garment comprising:

20 a) a waist belt having a first belt end, a second belt end, a first sling attachment location proximate the first belt end, and a second sling attachment location disposed between the first and second belt ends; and

25 b) a disposable suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates, said suspension sling having longitudinally extending

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suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end, said suspension sling being attachable to the first and second sling attachment locations of the waist belt in a manner to suspend the suspension sling in a wearer's crotch region;

wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region.

14. The absorbent garment of claim 13 wherein the second sling attachment location is disposed approximately midway between the first and second belt ends.

15. The absorbent garment of claim 13 wherein the waist belt and suspension sling comprise a belt closure system.

16. The absorbent garment of claim 15 wherein the belt closure system comprises closure system elements at least at the first and second sling attachment locations and proximate the suspension sling distal and proximal ends.

17. The absorbent garment of claim 16 wherein closure system elements join the first sling attachment location to the suspension sling proximal end.

5 18. A method of applying an absorbent undergarment about a human lower torso having a waist and a crotch comprising the steps of:

10 a) encircling the waist of the torso with a waist belt having a first belt end, a second belt end, a first sling attachment location proximate the first belt end, and a second sling attachment location disposed between the first and second belt ends;

15 b) releasably attaching the first and second belt ends;

20 c) attaching to the first sling attachment location a proximal end of a disposable suspension sling useful for absorbing and containing body exudates, said suspension sling having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and the
25 suspension sling proximal end;

d) drawing at least the suspension sling distal end through the crotch of the torso; and

e) attaching the suspension sling distal end to the second sling attachment location.

5 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of orienting the first belt end toward anterior portions of the torso while releasably attaching to the second belt end thereto.

10 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of attaching the suspension sling proximal end to the first sling attachment location while the first and second belt ends are oriented toward the anterior of the torso and rotating the belt about the waist to locate
15 the suspension sling adjacent posterior portions of the torso, generally in the area of the buttocks, prior to drawing the distal end through the crotch toward the anterior portions of the torso.